



# Wyoming Retirement System

*Partnering to Build Financial Security for Members and their Families*

Matt Mead  
Governor

Ruth Ryerson  
Executive Director

Dear Wyoming Retirement System Volunteer Plan Sponsor,

During the 2015 Wyoming Legislative Session, the Legislature passed House Bill 72 - Volunteer Firefighter and EMT Pension Account, and it was signed into law as House Enrolled Act 13 by Governor Mead. The new plan goes into effect July 1, 2015.

The new Volunteer Firefighter and EMT Plan modernizes the plan design and improves or maintains benefit levels for all members. The new plan establishes long-term funding for the previous Volunteer EMT Plan, making it possible to continue to incentivize volunteer emergency responders in Wyoming.

This legislation combines all assets and liabilities of the existing Wyoming Retirement System Volunteer Fire and Volunteer EMT pension funds into one newly created fund, and repeals the two existing accounts.

- An information sheet outlining key points of the bill can be found at <http://retirement.wyo.gov/Media.aspx?mediald=1298>
- The full bill can be found at <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2015/Enroll/HB0072.pdf>

Administrative duties of the new plan continue to be performed by staff of the Wyoming Retirement System. The WRS Executive Director continues to act as liaison with the new board. Details on the Board can be found at:  
<http://retirement.wyo.gov/home/VolFireEMT.html>.

WRS is working to create the new plan in our pension administration system and migrate all existing members to the new plan, recalculating benefits and verifying service records in the process. As part of this, WRS will begin requiring participating entities to provide information on terminated members for whom the department is still paying contributions.

**Contribution template uploads** for July's volunteer service (submitted in August) will need to be adjusted to reflect the new contribution rate of \$15/month. With questions about contributions or administrative issues with the new plan, please contact Renee Winfrey at [reneewinfrey@wyo.gov](mailto:reneewinfrey@wyo.gov).

The new plan includes a new formula for calculating benefits - \$16 per month for each year of service up to 10 years and \$19 per month for each year of service above 10 years (up from \$15 and \$18 for EMTs; Fire had a table of benefits set in statute). New benefit levels will apply to all existing members - both active and retired. Current retirees will have benefits adjusted according to this rate. All existing members being moved to the new plan on July 1, 2015 will have a benefit equal to or greater than their benefit under the previous plan.

Because the new plan does not have a cap on service or required retirement age, WRS will not automatically send out retirement applications to retirement eligible members. Applications for retirement are available by request, or online at

[retirement.wyo.gov](http://retirement.wyo.gov). Once the pension administration system has been updated, members will also be able to apply for retirement online.

WRS will send correspondence to members informing them about any benefit changes. A new Volunteer Firefighter and EMT Pension Plan Handbook will be distributed to members later this summer. If members have account-specific questions regarding their benefit, please direct them to WRS Member Benefits at 307-777-1977.

Sincerely,



Ruth Ryerson



This email was sent to ben.tonak@wyo.gov by [pension@wyo.gov](mailto:pension@wyo.gov) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



Try it FREE today.

Wyoming Retirement System | 6101 Yellowstone RD STE 500 | Cheyenne | WY | 82002